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COLLECTORS'



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NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

(Continued.)

D.—Dahlongena, Georgia Branch Mint. The D on the coin makes an important variety to the collector, distinguishing it from the California coins, marked S, Orleans pieces marked O, and North Carolina coins marked C.

Dateless.—A "trial piece," struck without date; or any place upon which a date properly belongs and is omitted in engraving the die, as in the nickel cents, which are known by their general designs, though dateless, to belong to the 1856 and 1858 issues.

Denarius.—Small ancient Roman gold and silver coins.

Eagle.—This refers to United States ten dollar gold coin and its subdivisions. There are other references to the eagle as crow eagle, spread eagle, eagle on a rock, small eagle, buzzard eagle, etc., each of which furnishes its own explanation.

Egged.—Covering the surface of a coin with the white of eggs to protect it from rust or corrosion.

Electrotype.—A cast or imitation of a coin in lead; a piece made by the use of an electric battery.

Engraved.—Cut by a tool; an inscription on a medal not made in the die.

Engrailed.—Irregular or diagonal curvatures on the outer border or edge of coins, etc.; differing from milled or reeded edges.

Exergue.—Space where initials, date, etc., is placed on lower portion of coins.

Experimental Piece.—See *Pattern Piece*.

Fierce.—See *Bold*.

Fillet Head.—Hair confined closely and tied with a bow at the back, as on obverse of United States coins of early dates.

First Brass.—Large ancient brass coins of Greece and Rome. These coins are known as *first, second and third* brass, according to size.

Flowing Hair.—Where the hair on head of Liberty is unconfined, as on the 1793 cents, etc.

Flattened.—See *Battered*.

Forty Head.—Referring to a variety of the cents of 1839, which has the head of 1840.

Franklin Cent.—The first cent issued by order of the United States Congress, 1787; supposed to have been designed by Benjamin Franklin.

Freckled.—A coin spotted on the field, the result of cleaning a copper piece with acid.

(*To be continued.*)

THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(*Continued.*)

It is too hot to stay here long, so pick your way carefully among these boxes of gold, silver and copper strips, and ingots, to the other end of the room. Be careful of that stand; it is terribly dirty. It is where they are greasing the silver strips and waxing the gold, to enable them to pass through the drawing bench easier. Wax is a better lubricator than grease for gold.

That long table, with the odd-looking, endless chain, running from right to left, making a deafening noise, is the drawing bench. In fact, there are two benches, one on each side of the table. At the right end you see an iron box secured to the table. In this are fastened two perpendicular steel cylinders, firmly supported in a bed, to prevent their bending or turning around, and presenting but a small portion of their circumference to the strip. These are exactly at the same distance apart that the thickness of the strip must be. One end of the strip is pinched somewhat thinner than the rest, to allow it to slip easily between the cylinders. When through, this end is put between the jaws of a powerful pair of tongs, or pincers, fastened to a little carriage running on the table. One carriage, you see, has a flag fastened to it, and has drawn a strip nearly through. The carriage to the further bench is up close to the cylinders, ready to receive a strip, which is inserted edgewise. When the end is between the pincers, the operator touches a foot pedal which closes the pincers firmly on the strip, and pressing another pedal, forces down a strong hook at the left end of the carriage, which catches in a link of the moving chain. This draws the carriage away from the cylinders, and the strip being connected with it has to follow. It is drawn through the cylinders, which, operating on the thick part of the strip with greater power than upon the thin, reduces the whole to an equal thickness. When the whole is through, the strain on the tongs instantly ceases, which allows a spring to open them and drop the strip. At the same time, another spring raises the hook and disengages the carriage from the chain. A cord fastened to the carriage runs back over the wheel near the head of the table, and then up to a couple of combination weights on the wall beyond, which draw the carriage back to the starting place, ready for another strip.

The original machine was invented by Mr. Barton, Controller of

the British Mint; but this table has been so far improved by Mr. Peale as to be almost his own creation. Barton's table required two men to operate it, while Peale's requires only one. The arrangement of the combination weights to draw back the carriage, fast at first and slower as it reaches the starting point; the application of the pedals to close the tongs and attach the carriage to the chain, are Mr. Peale's invention. His machine is arranged to run with much less noise than Barton's, and has other minor improvements.

(To be continued.)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(Continued.)

With such an inefficient form of government, they failed in almost every appeal for pecuniary aid. They were even denied, by the single veto of Rhode Island, the establishment of an impost of only five per cent. on imported goods, which, after great delay and difficulty had been ratified by all the other States. Unanimity being a constitutional requirement, that measure, so obviously necessary, so moderate in its amount, so gentle and equal in its operation, was defeated by the negative of the smallest State in the confederation. Nor could the entreaty of Congress, contained in a long argumentative report addressed to Rhode Island, and drawn up by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and Thomas Fitzsimmons, cause that State to retract.

A letter from Benjamin Franklin, on this subject, dated Passy, December 23, 1782, says: "Our people certainly ought to do more for themselves. It is absurd, the pretending to be lovers of liberty, while they grudge paying for the defence of it. It is said here that an impost of five per cent. on all goods imported, though a most reasonable proposition, had not been agreed to by all the States, and was therefore frustrated."

Sustaining the bills of credit, by the public, under such circumstances, and for the length of time they did so, appears to me one of the most praiseworthy passages in our Revolutionary history, pregnant alike with honor to our forefathers for their confidence in the illustrious administrators of the government, and with fidelity to the glorious cause for which they fought. And this reliance on the honorable intentions of the Congress of that day is fully vindicated by a manifesto issued by that body, which, although inserted in a former essay on this subject, is, from the noble sentiments it contains, worthy of a second transcript here.

"Suppose," says the Congress of 1779, "that at the conclusion of the war, the emissions should amount to two hundred millions, that the loan should amount to another hundred millions, then the whole national debt of the United States would be three hundred millions. There are at present three millions of inhabitants in the thirteen

States. Three hundred millions of dollars, divided among three millions of people, would give to each person one hundred dollars, and is there," they ask, "an individual in America unable, in the course of eighteen or twenty years, to pay that small sum? Again, suppose the whole debt assessed, as it ought to be, on the inhabitants in proportion to their respective estates, what would then be the share of the poorer people? Perhaps not ten dollars! And if twenty years be taken to pay the debt, the number of inhabitants will be more than doubled, and the ability to pay increased, of course, more than two fold."

(*To be continued.*)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

The latest coinage of Greece is that of gold, which appears to have been first used by Philip of Macedon. The coinage of gold in Sicily is, however, of a much earlier date, as there are pieces of Syracuse with the indented square, an infallible mark of antiquity. The gold pieces of Cyrene are exceedingly small. In conclusion, the only gold coins of Greek cities at present known are of Tarentum and Brettium, in Magna Grecia, Panticapæa and Cosa in Thrace; Cyrene, Syracuse, Lampsacus in Mysia, Arcanania, Thebes, Carthage and Athens; of which Carthage, Cyrene and Syracuse are common; the others are of great rarity.

To give a list of all the coins of Greek cities would be impossible, as almost every year brings to light numbers not before known; and, but a few weeks since, the compiler of this work was informed by a gentleman that a friend of his had in his possession upwards of five hundred Greek civic coins which were hitherto unknown. The list which follows will, therefore, perhaps, be deemed unnecessary, but it is presumed that though incomplete, as any such list ever must be, enough is given to enable the beginner not only to distinguish Greek coins from those of other nations, but also to familiarize him to those upon which the names of cities are given in a contracted form, or which are known only by the badges of their respective states.

It should be remarked that many Greek coins without letters are attributed to particular cities in consequence of the figures represented on them; but it must be obvious that in such cases much is left to conjecture. May we not infer that the symbols of a buckler, an owl, or a pegasus, though belonging to Thebes, to Athens, or to Corinth, might be used by cities of minor importance, or islands dependent on or acknowledging the laws of those cities? It is evident that in the arrangement of Greek civic coins, presumptive evidence

alone can guide us. To those who require a more particular account of these pieces, a perusal of Dr. Comb's catalogue of the collection formerly in the possession of Dr. Hunter is recommended. There is also a work of a much more recent date, published in Paris, which contains notices of a great number of unpublished Greek coins, together with some admirable drawings.

The Greek civic coins are more common in copper than in silver, there being double the number in the first metal. This is supposed to be owing to the poverty of the states, but other reasons may be assigned, though it is singular that the coins of Greek princes in silver are commoner than their copper.

(*To be continued.*)

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

The Brazilian Diamond districts are in Government hands, and are worked on the same general plan with the Indian.

Full particulars of the stringent measures adopted in the former country, throughout the whole Diamond district, to prevent the stones from being taken unlawfully out of the boundaries, may be found in the Travels of Doctors Von Spix and Von Marlius, made in Brazil, by the command of the King of Bavaria.* The whole region is marked out by a cordon encircling it, extending many miles.

Diamonds have also been found in conglomerates of recent volcanic origin, called geologically amygdaloids; in gold and platinum sands in the Ural mountains; and one is reported to have been found lately in Virginia; and another in the district of Fermanagh, in Ireland; and, as they are commonly found wherever gold exists, it is not unlikely that they will eventually be discovered in quantities in various quarters of our widely extended territories (particularly in California), in Australia, and in Africa. Indeed, mention is made in the classical authors of Diamonds received from the latter country.

The Diamond when found possesses by no means the brilliancy for which it is famous. In its natural state it is not even transparent—it is at best but translucent. To art, therefore, it owes in a great degree its renown; for its fires, which so dazzle the eye, are only released by removing the external crust, and may indeed after that be greatly increased by cutting the stone into peculiar shapes.

The method of polishing and cutting the Diamond was first discovered by Louis de Bergnem, of Bruges, in 1476. The former is done by means of Diamond powder, which is obtained by rubbing

*Reise in Brasilien auf Befehl S'r Magestat Maximilian Joseph I Königs Von Baiern. Gemacht und beschrieben Von D'r Von Spix und D'r Von Marlius. Munich: 1828. 4to.

two Diamonds together—the latter by fragments of Diamonds set in convenient instruments. The stone to be operated on is itself firmly set by cement or soft solder in some suitable body, and requires a different setting to produce each *facet*. A *facet* is the name of any one external *plane* upon the Diamond.

The shape of these planes or *facets* is generally triangular and quadrangular, in consequence of course of the shape of the whole Diamond, which is required to be of a certain peculiarity, which, it is believed, is that which renders the Diamond in the highest degree brilliant. This shape will be described presently.

These operations (of polishing and cutting) are generally performed over a small, strong box, which serves to retain the powder that may be produced by abrasion as well as the fragments that result from cutting. These pieces are called technically *bort*.

The first polished stone is said to have belonged to Charles the Bold, and many romantic stories are related of it.

(*To be continued.*)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(*Continued.*)

New Jersey Cent, 1787; large planchet; splendid; nearly proof impression; a very scarce variety, having E PLURIBUS on the reverse. \$3 75.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; plow of the largest size, fine; the variety is very rare. 75 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; large plow, with knobs; very fine. 30 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; long plow, with beam and handles much curved; large size, very fine. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; high straight plow; very fine. 40 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; very curiously double struck; fine; unique. 35 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; long straight plow; fine. 25 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787, with an arm projecting from the shield; a very curious variety, rare in itself, and probably struck over some other coin; fine. 30 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787, broken shield; very fine. 30 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; long low plow, large shield; uncirculated; scarce. 35 cents.

New Jersey Cents, 1787; a selection of twelve pieces; all strictly fine; no duplicates. Each 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; plow very large and high; fine; a scarce type. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cents, 1787; another selection of twelve pieces; all good; several fine; no duplicates. Each 35 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; a knob appearing on the horse's neck; shield on the reverse of a peculiar type; unique. 75 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; head facing left; long low plow. \$2.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; head facing left; splendid; uncirculated; a full bold impression; altogether the finest I have ever seen; rare. \$5 25.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; head facing left, die broken across; very fine indeed; rare. \$2.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; head to left; very good; differs from any of the preceeding. \$1 25.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; head facing left; a fifth variety, very fine. The last five lots described are all distinct varieties. \$1 62½.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; the dog type; fine and rare. \$1.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; plow of large size; uncirculated. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; almost proof. \$1.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; the plow handles very large and clumsy; uncirculated. 75 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; horse's head small; very fine. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; uncirculated. 62½ cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1788; broken die. 25 cents.

New Jersey Cents, 1788; two pieces; varieties; fine. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; long plow, with knobs on handles; uncirculated. 62½ cents.

(To be continued.)

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

STEPHEN, A. D. 1135.

Obverse.—The portraits on the coins of this king are generally in profile, with a sceptre, a mace, or a lance, in the right hand. The name is always oddly spelt STEFN, STEFNE, STIEN, etc; sometimes with the addition of R and RE, but mostly without the style.

Reverse.—The names of the moneyers, and crosses of various kinds. A coin is engraved in Snelling which has no legend on the reverse, but in its place flowers and various emblems.

Rarity —All Stephen's money is very scarce, and one or two types are exceedingly rare. At a sale in London, in 1827, the penny of Stephen, with the horseman's mace, brought thirteen pounds. His coins are generally very rude and illegible. This king coined pennies only.

There are pennies, on the obverse of which Stephen and Henry are shaking hands. Legend STIEFNE. R; reverse, an ornamented cross, with ornaments in the place of the moneyer's name. They are very rare.

There are, besides, pennies of Eustace, Stephen's son; obverse, a lion or leopard rampant, with the legend EUSTACIVS; reverse, a cross of eight points fleur'ie, without the moneyer's name; also, of Robert, Earl of Gloucester; obverse, a rude figure on horseback, with a conical

helmet and a sword in the right hand; reverse, an ornamented cross without the name of the moneyer, but with various emblems, like some of Stephen's pennies.

To these may be added, the penny engraved by Snelling, and supposed by him to be a blundered coin of Stephen, but with more propriety attributed by Folkes to Henry, Bishop of Winchester, Stephen's bastard brother. The bust on the obverse has a crozier, but the head is crowned. The legend runs thus:—HEN—VS. EPC; reverse, a cross somewhat similar to that on the pennies of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, but with the king's name, STEPHANVS, in the place usually appropriated to the moneyer's name.

HENRY II, A. D. 1154.

Obverse.—The coins ascribed to this king have portraits full-faced, and in profile, with a sceptre, which on some is leaned on the shoulder. The legends are generally HENRI R. A. and sometimes REX ANG.

Reverse.—The names of the moneyers, and the towns in which they were coined, but generally illegible. A cross patee, with four others, one in each quarter.

Rarity.—The supposed coins of Henry II are all scarce. They are of very inferior workmanship.

(To be continued.)

A NUMISMATIC DREAM.

"I dreamed a dream."—*Mason.*

'Twas on a summer morning, within a dreary attic,
A numismatist, ill at ease, was snoring quite emphatic;
A bureau stood beside him—a sort of modern throne,
Stored with those cherished idols he fondly called his own;
Its drawers, soft pine, and varnished, had lost their pretty shine;
But the precious contents, one by one, were scanned as if divine.
Here lay his country's coinage, made at an early day,
The great achievements which they mark ne'er yet have passed away;
Historic stories known to all, engraved by skillful hand,
The sacred lessons which they teach have long preserved the land;
Here, in a drawer, the Jersey coins—horse head and "Spanish" mane;
There, side by side, Connecticut and Virginia long have lain;
Here, the flying eagle coins, and dollar of fifty-one;
There, the godlike features of the glorious Washington;
While curious legends, *oddly read*, most certainly do fib;
Here, he sees *Lib et Inde*, and there, *Inde et Lib*!
From quaint New England shillings to silver patterns *nine*,
Where Barber's skill gave Liberty a head almost divine;
Ah! what a living interest around these coins do cling,
When speculation's golden bird spreads out its endless wing!
But, look! what legend now has on his vision burst,
He strains his eyes, and looks, and reads the motto "God our Trust."
He sees in corners, lying loose, some coppers red and bright,
The date of each is *ninety-nine*—he's frenzied at the sight;
Then rising from the bed in haste, he started for the door,
A second after this, his length was measured on the floor.
"Lo! what a joke," he speaks aloud; "where! *where is all this cream?*
My hopes are turned to buttermilk, 'tis nothing but a dream!"

Plain Greens, Pennsylvania.

E. M., JR.

INDIAN BOOKS.

Few of our readers have any knowledge of the Indian language, as used by the red men of New England in the seventeenth century; and fewer still have had an opportunity to examine the peculiarly constructed words forming the substance of Indian books. We do not know, that any living human being can read, write or speak the Indian dialect of "ye olden times;" nor can we throw any light upon the solution of this mysterious conglomeration of oddities; yet, we propose to give a specimen of the "Indian talk," as found in one of John Eliot's Indian Catechisms, published at Cambridge, Massachusetts, about the year 1664. The catechism is printed in English, upon one page, and in the Indian language upon the opposite page. We select, as a good specimen, the ten commandments from Exodus xx, 1, 3, 4.

"GOD SPAKE ALL THESE WORDS, SAYING:"

I. Have thou not for a God any other Gods before me.

II. Do not make to thyself an image.

III. Do not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy, etc.

V. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thou mayst long live in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Do not falsely bear witness against thy neighbor.

X. Do not covet, etc.

I. Ummanittoomuhkon onka-
togeeg manittoog ut anaquubeh.

II. Ayimanuhkon kubhog nun-
neu kontunkoh.

III. Neemunumoohkon Owe-
fuonk Jehovah Kummanittoom
tahnooche.

IV. Mehquontagh Sabbath day
woh kuppahketeaunn, etc.

V. Quttianum Koosh kah Koo-
kas, onk woh kussepe pomantam
ut kutonkert uttiyeu Jehovah
Kummanittoomun aninnumunk-
quean.

VI. Nushehteohkon.

VII. Manuffehkon.

VIII. Kommootuhkon.

IX. Panoowae wauwaonuhkon.
Ketatteamunk.

X. Anchewontohkon, etc.

INTERESTING LETTERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AND
ANDREW JACKSON.

The following letters of two of America's distinguished patriots will be read with great interest, and deserve to be framed and placed in every household for the instruction and guidance of the youth of this country. These letters were written under the following circumstances:

Peter A. Grotjan, Esq., of Philadelphia, and his lady had for many years enjoyed a correspondence with Mr. Jefferson. In December, 1823, Mrs. Grotjan wrote to Mr. Jefferson, requesting him to bestow his name on her infant son, and write him a letter of advice as a

legacy to him. On the evening of the 9th of June, 1833, Mr. Grotjan introduced his son, now in the tenth year of his age, to General Jackson, and requested him to add his sentiments. He retired to his room, and returned in a few minutes with his sentiments written on Mr. Jefferson's letter.

TH. JEFFERSON TO TH. JEFFERSON GROTJAN.

Your affectionate mother requests that I would address to you, as a namesake, something which might have a favorable impression on the course of life you have to run. Few words are necessary with good dispositions on your part. Adore God. Reverence and cherish your parents. Love your neighbor as yourself; and your country more than life. Be just. Be true. Mourn not at the ways of Providence; and the life into which you have entered will be the passage to one of eternal and ineffable bliss; and if to the dead it is permitted to care for the things of this world, every action of your life will be under my regard. Farewell.

Monticello, Jan. 10, '24.

Although requested by Mr. Grotjan, yet I can add nothing to the admirable advice given to his son by that virtuous patriot and enlightened statesman, Thomas Jefferson. The precious relic which he sent to the young child contains the purest morality, and inculcates the noblest sentiments. I can only recommend a rigid adherence to them. They will carry him through life safely and respectably; and, what is far better, they will carry him through death triumphantly; and we may humbly trust they will secure to all, who in principle and practice adopt them, that crown of immortality described in the Holy Scriptures.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Philadelphia, June 9, 1833.

PHILADELPHIA MUSEUMS.

At last, our citizens have shaken off the lethargy which for years has kept our beautiful city in the back ground. We are to have *two museums*; think of it! and both are to be models of elegance and attractiveness. One of these desirable institutions is to be erected at Ninth and Arch streets (half a square only from our new coin depot) and the other at Tenth and Arch streets, two of the best locations that could be found in all our broad and lengthy city.

DISSOLUTION, ETC.

Mr. L. W. Durbin, who for the past year has managed the Postage Stamp Department of our firm, retired from the company, April 1st. The name of the firm will remain the same, and, after we get in our new location, we promise to keep well supplied with everything pertaining to the coin and stamp business. We have now in press new coin and stamp catalogues, and expect to have our new store ready for occupancy the 10th of the present month.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

TRIFET & Co., BOSTON.—You say that you are entitled to an *exchange* for a certain “kick” you gave our journal in a “candid opinion” published in your *January* issue. The “kick” you allude to has not been received; but a friend, who perused the *kind* remarks you were supplied with by a member of the Numismatic Association, concerning this journal, informs us you asserted that the only *original* matter in our magazine was “Replies to Correspondents.” We must confess that in the matter of those “two dollars” you owe us, *originality*, as well as the *money*, is wanting, this being the third call. When you pay the money due for the 1836 cent returned to you several months since, we will cheerfully exchange. A *hint* is as good as a *kick*.

A. R. P.—“Why is it you charge from \$5 to \$40 for half cents from 1840 to 1848? Trifet & Co. advertises 1825 to 1848 half cents five cents to twenty-five cents each, according to condition.” *Ans.*—The half cents of 1831, 1836, 1840 to 1848 and 1852 inclusive, are all very rare, and range in coin sales from \$5 to \$40 each, the rarest being 1842 and 1847. Of course, Trifet cannot sell *genuine* half cents of those dates for the prices named. You will notice the need of a numismatic critic on the coin matter in Trifet’s publication, as he advertises the very common nickel cents of 1857 on sale at from fifty cents to \$2 50 each! We all know that the ordinary 1857 nickels are very plenty, and are worth about one cent each.

P. A., JR.—The New York Numismatic Journal is \$3 per annum. Fifty cents monthly. The London Numismatic Chronicle is \$2 50 per number; \$10 per annum, issued quarterly.

H. L. S., FOREST CITY.—Do not think No. 2 will be published inside of three months. February and March numbers mailed twice.

S. S.—Heath & Co., Philadelphia, are getting up an illustrated coin manual, similar to Dr. Dickeson’s, oblong in shape.

R. L. P.—We have very few back numbers, and none of the dates you name.

L. H. M.—Two sales in New York. See editorial.

NEW COIN PRICED CATALOGUE.

We have in press a new and improved coin catalogue, containing a very full list of the different series of United States coins, silver and copper, with fictitious value added. Price, 25 cents. Also, a price list of the coins we have for sale, which will be sent free to all persons enclosing stamp for return postage.

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

The private collection of coins, medals, books, curiosities, minerals, etc., of L. Montgomery Bond, of this city, will be offered for public sale next month, date not fixed. Catalogues forwarded on application.

MINT DROPS.

AUSTRIAN COINAGE.—The Government of Austria, it is announced, intends issuing new gold coins, corresponding in value to the French Napoleons and half Napoleons, or twenty franc and ten franc pieces, in U. S. currency, \$3 84 and \$1 92. The Austrian sovereign is worth \$6 75 and the Union crown \$6 64, so that the new coin will furnish an exact standard of exchange with France and Western Europe.

NOT MINT DROPS.—Bogus five cent nickel coins are flooding the country. They are of a dull lead color, inclined to yellow and not as heavy as the genuine. The legend, "In God We Trust" is a trifle larger in the counterfeits.

THE COPPER COINAGE of Great Britain, according to a royal proclamation recently issued, ceased to be current December 31, 1869. It has been superseded by the bronze currency.

A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT.

It is gratifying to the publishers of this journal to be able to announce that our subscribers have or can realize over two hundred per cent. on the money originally invested in subscriptions to the volumes of this magazine. The February number of the *New York Numismatic Journal* has a flaming advertisement on the inside cover, which we copy in the strong hope that the number wanted may be obtained. We could not supply the June number, 1869, for three times the amount offered in the following advertisement:

WANTED.

The June number of Mason's Coin Magazine for 1869. \$1 will be paid for a good copy. Address WILLIAM WOOD & CO., Publishers,
No. 61 Walker Street, New York.

All subscribers wishing to sell their magazines, bound or unbound, separate numbers or completed volumes, will please fix a price, and send their address to this office.

ALLEN'S COIN SALE.

A valuable and unique collection of silver medals and coins, the property of John Allen, Esq., (*the cleverest man*) of New York, will be sold at public auction in May. Due notice given.

WANTED.

This Magazine for April, 1867; December, 1868; January, February, March, April, May and June, 1869; January and February, 1870. Cash or trade for one or more. Complete volumes purchased.

REMOVAL.

The office of this magazine has been removed to No. 139 North Ninth Street. All orders hereafter should be addressed to Mason & Co., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

A very rare and choice private collection of coins, medals and pattern pieces (336 lots) will be offered at public sale on Tuesday, April 12, at Birch & Sons' auction rooms, in this city. The gold and silver are very choice pieces, and some of the pattern pieces are of great rarity, never before offered at public sale. We have sent handsomely printed catalogues (wide tinted paper) to those of our patrons who favor us with orders. All others will be supplied on receipt of twenty-five cents. This course is rendered necessary on account of the small quantity we have for distribution. Priced catalogues, broad margin, tinted paper, will be furnished after the sale at one dollar each.

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

THE ST. LOUIS STAMPS.

The English, French and German Philatelic Magazines come to us filled with heavy communications and editorials upon the authenticity of the stamps of St. Louis: the five cent and ten cent issues, which were used by that office about the year 1845. In justice to Mr. L. W. Durbin, who has faithfully adhered to the bold stand taken by him in behalf of these much abused stamps, we admit his communication, which should forever set at rest any doubt that St. Louis was the pioneer in this country in the matter of government postage stamps. In addition to the papers of Mr. Durbin, in defence of the stamps, we have had the pleasure of perusing a letter in the possession of R. C. Davis, of this city, from the General Post Office, at Washington, enclosing a pair of the above named stamps, originally obtained from the Post Master at St. Louis:

PHILADELPHIA, March, 8, 1870.

GENTS.—In the November, 1869, No. of the *Le Timbrophile*, appears an article upon the St. Louis stamps, in which the writer, M. Marcou, intimates that they were forgeries and manufactured by me. The affidavit which Mr. Kershaw very kindly made for me, and which I append, will I trust, be sufficient to refute that charge. If M. Marcou will carefully peruse the article in the September, 1868, No. of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, he will find that it reads as follows, "The engraver of these stamps * * * * informs us that *about* the year 1848, etc." Mr. Kershaw's papers were destroyed during the late war, and he could not remember the exact year. It will also be noticed, that in his (Mr. Kershaw's) affidavit, he says, "during or *about* the year 1845." Mr. Kershaw does not state that he engraved the plates for these stamps, either in 1845 or 1848, but *about* that time. M. Marcou affirms that all the St. Louis stamps that have been sold came from me and were new. This statement is false. I have never owned but four sets, three of which I sold, but not one of them in Europe; nor have I ever offered any for sale

there. If I remember rightly, all I had were cancelled with pen-strokes, and I do not know of a single uncanceled specimen. The French are noted for their politeness, but M. Marcou has shown himself utterly devoid of some of the qualities of a gentleman in the closing remarks of his communication to *Le Timbrophile*, and for him to draw his conclusions that the St. Louis stamps are forgeries, from such a source, *The Timbrophilist* shows that he is clutching at the last straw to prove his position. In conclusion, I would say that the affidavit of Mr. Kershaw shows that but two values were engraved, viz.: five and ten cents, and therefore the twenty cent stamp, that has lately been noticed in the *American Journal of Philately*, is a forgery.

LEON W. DURBIN.

Be it remembered that on this twenty-fifth day of February, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the County of St. Louis, State of Missouri, came James M. Kershaw, an engraver in the City of St. Louis, County and State aforesaid, and who is personally known to me to be the same person who executed this instrument of writing as per his hand and seal, and being by me duly sworn on his oath, deposes and says: That during, or about the year eighteen hundred and forty-five (1845), he did, upon the order of John M. Winner, Post Master for the said City of St. Louis, engrave a copper plate, containing thereon the engraving of six Postage Stamps, bearing the coat of arms of the State of Missouri, for the use of the Post Office Department in said City of St. Louis, and that he believes the fore-mentioned stamps to have been of the denomination of five and ten cents, and further deponent sayeth not.

JAMES M. KERSHAW. [SEAL.]

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this twenty-fifth day of February, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy.

CYRUS G. HOYT,

Notary Public for St. Louis County, Missouri.

RICHMOND CITY POST STAMP.

We have lately seen a specimen of the much doubted *Richmond City Post* Stamp. The one we examined differed from any of the numerous counterfeits of the *Richmond Post* we have ever seen, and has a really genuine appearance. It is printed in blue upon thick white paper. RICHMOND above, CITY Post below, and two cannons crossed in the centre; no value expressed. It was post-marked and was taken from a letter written by a gentleman, who was in the South during the late war, to a brother in this city. From an inspection of the above stamp, and the information received from the gentleman in whose possession it is, we are inclined to believe that the stamp above described is one of a genuine emission from the city of Richmond during the war.

COUNTERFEIT STAMPS.

A gang of postage stamp counterfeiters has been discovered and broken up in Toronto. Postage stamps to the amount of several thousand dollars have been counterfeited and sold in large quantities to dealers at a heavy discount.

NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES.—In our last number, we referred to the new three cent stamp, with the bust of Washington, now being prepared, together with the balance of series of new stamps for this country, by the National Bank Note Company of New York. We are now able to add that the new three cent postage stamp will be printed either in two colors, red and green or green alone, the selection not yet decided upon. The three cent issue has Washington's bust, profile, in an oval on a shield in a rectangular frame; "United States Postage" over the head in a scroll; "Three Cents" in lower margin.

The National Bank Note Company of New York has submitted specimens of the new postage stamps to the "powers that be," at Washington. The designs, as announced at "head quarters," are as follows:

One cent,	bust of Franklin,	blue.
Two do	do	Jackson, dark brown.
Three cent,	do	Washington, green.
Six do	do	Lincoln, red.
Ten do	do	Jefferson, light brown.
Twelve cent,	bust of Clay,	purple.
Fifteen do	do	Webster, deep yellow.
Twenty-four cent,	bust of Scott,	violet.
Thirty	do	do Hamilton, black.
Ninety	do	do Perry, scarlet.

There is yet some uncertainty in regard to the colors of the stamps, a portion of them may be printed in two colors, but the above is probably correct in the main. We regret to hear that the new three cent issue is to be *green*, as it will be in general appearance much like the 20 cent confederate stamp.

Assistant Post Master General Terrell has received specimens of the new issue. They will be ready for sale about the middle of this month.

TURKEY.—The Sublime Porte has at length decided to issue envelope stamps. The type which it has chosen presents in itself no very extraordinary features, but it is impressed in a truly unique manner, one half appearing on the flap and the other on the envelope below, so that when the latter is opened, the design, so to speak, "comes in two." The stamp, which is in relief, is colored yellow, but the surcharged characters are in black, and the paper itself is of a grayish tint. Its value is 1 piastre, but we believe a second value also exists, 1½ piastre. *Stamp Collectors' Magazine.*

The design of the 1 p. stamp, is an octangular frame containing a crescent and the value. Turkish characters in the four sides, and a star in each angle.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—In addition to the official stamps described in our last, the *Journal of Philately* chronicles the emission of a set for the Southern States, of the same design, consisting of the following values: 1, 2, 3 and 7 pr.

THE DECCAN.—*The Philatelist* announces the reception of a $\frac{3}{4}$ anna stamp from Hyderabad, the capital of the above government. "The shape is rectangular oblong; Indian characters over a running pattern of florets; the outer space being a ground of engine-turned design. It is printed in blackish green, and is perforated."

CANADA.—In addition to the three cent stamp described in our February number, we have received the one cent, orange.

ANTIOQUIA.—*Le Timprophile* notices the existence of a 5 centavo stamp of a different design to that of the present issue.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

A variety of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ centavo has turned up. The designs differ from the $2\frac{1}{2}$ centavo described in our July, 1869, number, but the color is the same.

BAVARIA.—M. Moens announces the apparition of a returned letter stamp for the exclusive use of the city of Spire, in Rhenish Bavaria. *Philatelist*.

FINLAND.—After a careful research, Dr. Magnus has ascertained that there were two issues of the 10 and 20 p. envelopes of 1845, the colors being reversed.

SPAIN.—The colors of the new series, as far as ascertained, are as follows:

25 mills, lilac.	50 mills, blue.
100 do red.	200 do brown.
400 do green.	1 esc, 600 do violet.
2 esc brown.	12 cuar, lake.
19 cuar, green.	

NATAL.—The one penny stamp is printed in yellow instead of carmine.

PORTUGAL.—The 240 reis has appeared; color, violet. We are also informed that the 100 reis is to be printed in red instead of lilac.

POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine, C. Van Rinsum, Amsterdam, Holland.

The January number of the above journal is before us, and contains much of interest to the stamp collector. It is embellished with a number of engravings of newly issued stamps, and will be sent free to every one who sends in a good article on philately.

A Descriptive Catalogue of all American and Foreign Postage Stamps. New York. J. W. Scott & Co.

This, the eighteenth edition, comes to us in a new dress, illustrated with numerous engravings, and containing descriptions and price of all stamps issued to date.

BEHIND TIME.

Our magazine has been delayed by the removal of our store. We trust our patrons will overlook this delay, which was unavoidable. Parties wanting coins, stamps, etc., will remember the location.

PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE.

PRIVATE COLLECTION OF GOLD, SILVER AND COPPER
COINS, MEDALS AND A RARE AND VALUABLE
ASSORTMENT OF U. S. PATTERN PIECES,

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JUST RECEIVED.

Set of the New South African Republic, 1 penny, 6 penny, 1 shilling, post
free, ... \$1 50
1 penny, red, ... 15

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

A few of the 1869 issue of United States stamps, unused, for sale at 50 per
cent advance on facial value. These stamps will soon be superceded by
the new issue, and it would be well for collectors to procure the higher
values before the price advances.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

CHEAP SETS.

Bergedorf, set of five, ...	\$ 50
Saxony, " six, ...	10
Brunswick, " five, ...	15
Nicaragua, " two, ...	35
Servia, " eight, 1869, ...	1 05

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